

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. No claims have been added or cancelled.

Listing of Claims:

1.     **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:  
  
          detecting an alert event on a client device;  
  
          forming a platform-independent alert packet representing the alert event;  
  
          transmitting the alert packet to an alert proxy external to the client device;  
  
          receiving automatically a hardware-specific data control packet from the alert proxy in response to the transmission of the alert packet, the data control packet comprising one or more specified control operations to be performed on the client device;  
  
          determining a current operating state of said client device;  
  
          **automatically** determining whether execution of said specified control operations are permitted while said client device is in said determined operating state; and  
  
          **automatically** executing said specified control operations if said execution has been determined to be permitted.
2.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more specified control operations includes receiving a system reset operation.
3.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more specified control operations includes receiving a system power operation.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said current operating state of said client device is determined by inspecting at least one status register on said client.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said control operations are permitted while said client device is in a system hung state.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware-specific data control packet is encapsulated according to a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).

8 – 16. (Canceled)

17 – 23. (Withdrawn)

24 – 26. (Canceled)

27. (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus comprising:

a sensor to sense events in ~~the apparatus~~ **a client device**;

an alert ~~hardware-device~~ **module** coupled to the sensor to detect an alert event sensed by the sensor and to form a platform-independent alert packet representing the alert event; and

a network controller **coupled to the alert module** to transmit the alert packet to an alert proxy that is external to the ~~apparatus~~ **client device** and to automatically receive a hardware-specific data control packet from the alert proxy in response to the transmission of the alert packet, the data control packet comprising one or more specified control operations to be

**automatically** performed on the apparatus **client device when the client device is in an unresponsive state.**

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the one or more specified control operations includes receiving a system reset operation.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the one or more specified control operations includes receiving a system power operation.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said ~~current~~ operating state of said client device is determined by inspecting at least one status register on said client.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said control operations are permitted while said client device is in a system hung state.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the hardware-specific data control packet is encapsulated according to a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).